Appl'n No: 10/573,101

Amdt dated March 9, 2009

Reply to Office action of December 9, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 4, page 5 in the above-captioned application

(paragraph [0024] in the published version) with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Note that the inner sheet metal layer 16 does not have a top member running parallel to the

bottom wall 18 and thus the inner sheet metal layer 16 presents an open upper portion 17 and a

very large opening 24. The outer and inner sheet metal layers 14 and 16 are preferably formed

by metal stamping techniques as known in the art per se. --

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 6, page 6 in the above-captioned application

(paragraph [0028] in the published version) with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- By incorporating the structural reinforcement panel 30 into the structural door body 12, the

thickness of the outer and inner sheet metal layers 14, 16 can be reduced considerably and the

need for tailor blanking reinforcements is eliminated. The structural reinforcement member 30

adds weight, but the net result is a weight and hence material cost savings considering the

reduced thickness of the sheet metal layers, e.g., from about 1.6-2.0 mm to about 0.8 mm, and

the fact that the inner sheet metal layer 16 does not have a top member running parallel to the

bottom wall 18 thus providing the open upper portion 17 and the very large opening 24.

Nevertheless, even though the inner sheet metal layer 16 is relatively thin and assumes a

generally U-shaped form (thus eliminating the typical panel across the top of the inner sheet

metal layer 16), the structural door body 12 has good torsional rigidity as a result of the

reinforcement panel 30 and consequently has good deflection characteristics. (Deflection is

typically measured by applying a vertical 1000 N force on the edge of an installed door opposite

the hinges and measuring the resulting vertical deflection at the point where the force is applied).

The reinforcement panel 30 can be provided, for instance, from stamped steel having a thickness

of about 1.20 mm. --

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